

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05239 040956Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAJ-01 EUR-08 SCCT-01 IO-04 /072 W

----- 101024

R 040900Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8283

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

RUMJMUUXAMEMBASSY MANILA 3795

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5239

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MY

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS COMMUNIST SPLIT

REF: KL 5058

1. SUMMARY: IN STATEMENT ISSUED NOV. 1, GOM HOME AFFAIRS  
MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE SAID COMMUNIST PARTY MALAYA (CPM) SPLIT  
IS THREE-WAYS, NOT TWO-WAYS AS HERETOFORE BELIEVED. ACCORDING  
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PAGE 02 KUALA 05239 040956Z

GHAZALI'S STAEMENT, SCHISMATIC ELEMENTS ARE CPM-REVOLUTIONARY

FACTION (CPM-RF) OR 8TH REGIMENT OPERATING IN SADAO DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN THAILAND, AND CPM-MARXIST-LENINIST (CPM-ML) OR SECOND DISTRICT OF 12TH REGIMENT IN BETONG SALIENT OF SOUTHERN THAILAND. STATEMENT INDICATED CPM-ML WAS AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BANNER/POSTER/FLAG DISPLAY ON OCT. 22 REPORTED REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LENGTHY STATEMENT ISSUED TO PRESS NOV. 1, HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY EXPLAINED THAT WIDESPREAD COMMUNIST DISPLAY OCT 22 (PARA 3 REFTEL) WAS WORK OF CPM-ML, CREATION OF SCHISMATIC SECOND DISTRICT OF 12TH REGIMENT OPERATING IN BETONG SALIENT OF SOUTHERN THAILAND. HOME AFFAIRS MIN STATEMENT ALSO REVEALS TRIPARTITE SPLIT WITHIN CPM: IN ADDITION TO CPM-ML, THERE IS CPM-RF COMPRISED OF 8TH REGIMENT OPERATING IN THAILAND'S SADAO DISTRICT ADJOINING PERLIS AND NORTHERN KEDAH AND CPM-CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CPM-CC) LOYAL TO CHIN PENG WHO, HOME AFFAIRS MIN CONTENDS, HAS BEEN IN CHINA SINCE 1963. CPM-CC NOW CONSISTS OF 12TH REGIMENT (MINUS SECOND DISTRICT) 10TH REGIMENT AND ARMED ELEMENTS OPERATING IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS MALAYAN NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (MNLA), AS WELL AS UNDERGROUND MALAYAN NATIONAL LIBERATION LEAGUE (MNLL). ARMED WING OF CPM-RF IS ALSO KNOWN AS MALAYAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (MPLA).

3. ACCORDING HOME AFFAIRS STATEMENT, GENESIS OF SPLIT OCCURRED IN 1967 WHEN CPM-CC SUSPECTED LARGE-SCALE INFILTRATION OF GOVT INFORMERS AND ORDERED "LIQUIDATION" OF ALL NEW RECRUITS SINCE END OF EMERGENCY IN 1960. SCHISMS WERE EXACERBATED IN 1969-70 WHEN CPM-RF ACCUSED CPM-CC AND CHIN PENG OF CONSPIRING IN 1969-70 WHEN CPM-RF ACCUSED CPM-CC AND CHIN PENG OF CONSPIRING WITH "ENEMY" (PRESUMABLY GOVT) TO DECIMATE RANKS OF ARMED CADRES, AS WELL AS ABANDONING STRONG "ARMED STRUGGLE" CAMPAIGN. ALSO, IT WAS CHARGED THAT CHIN PENG WAS "NO LONGER FIT" TO LEAD CPM "BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN AWAY SINCE 1963." CPM-ML/SECOND DISTRICT ALSO SUSPECTED CPM-CC OF "CONSPIRING WITH ENEMY" BECAUSE OF LIQUIDATIONS, BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL EARLY 1974 THAT CPM-CC REAFFIRMED THAT LIQUIDATION CAMPAIGN WAS CORRECT. CONSEQUENTLY IN MARCH 1974, SECOND DISTRICT DECIDED TO BREAK AWAY FROM CPM-CC TO FORM OWN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, SUBSEQUENTLY REORGANIZED AS CPM-ML CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND MPLA ON AUG. 1, 1974.

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PAGE 03 KUALA 05239 040956Z

4. FYI. RECENT KL DAO REPORTS INDICATE THAT ARMED STRENGTH OF 8TH REGIMENT (CPM-RF) IS APPROX 270, WHILE CPM-CC CONTROLS ABOUT 1200 ARMED TERRORISTS INCLUDING 200 OR SO OPERATING ON MALAYSIAN SIDE OF THAI BORDER (KL DAO IR-6-862-0155-72 AND IR-6-862-0153-74). SECOND DISTRICT (CPM-ML) IS BELIEVED TO HAVE UP TO 150 ARMED TERRORISTS.

5. IN GOM ESTIMATION, COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CT'S) STILL REPRE-

SENT SECURITY THREAT DESPITE FRAGMENTATION INTO THREE GROUPS. GHAZALI SHAFIE COMMENTED ON NOV. 1 IN CONNECTION WITH ISSUANCE OF HIS FORMAL STATEMENT THAT CT'S MAY STEP UP TERRORIST CAMPAIGN TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS. IN A RADIO MALAYSIA INTERVIEW, GHAZALI ALSO SAID THAT EACH FACTION "WOULD BE OUT TO PROVE ITSELF MORE REVOLUTIONARY THAN THE OTHERS."

6. TEXT OF NOV. 1 HOME AFFAIRS STATEMENT POUCHED DEPT (EA/IMS AND INR/REA). FURTHER DETAILS AND EMBASSY COMMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNISTS, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, PARTY SCHISMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS COMMUNIST SPLIT  
**TAGS:** PINS, MY, (SHAFIE, GHAZALI)  
**To:** STATE  
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